

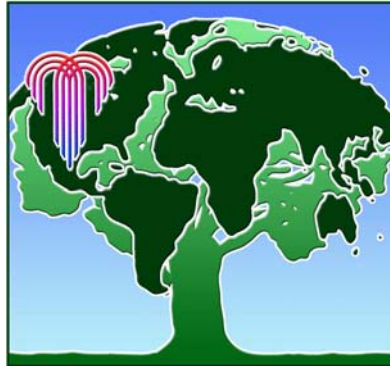


Deepening our own faiths while learning about others

The Kansas City Interfaith Council
presents

The Gifts of Pluralism

In a World Without Direction
We Find the Sacred



Register now!
Page 4

Learn! Teach! Enjoy! Celebrate!
Make friends of different faiths!
Create the future here!

Shaping the Future of Religion in the Kansas City area

*for everyone interested in learning
about world religions and how they address
today's environmental, personal, and social issues*

Pembroke Hill School

Ward Parkway Campus, 5121 State Line

October 27-28, 2001

Cosponsored by NCCJ, KC Harmony, Spirit of Service
with the assistance of The Learning Project and HateBusters

under the auspices of CRES: promoting understanding among people of all faiths

Please visit www.cres.org and click on the Conference Tree
or phone CRES 913 649 5114 or Gene Flanery 913 299 8415.

All are welcome to attend

Religious leaders (lay and professional), educators, students, HR managers, civic leaders, and anyone interested in experiencing the religious diversity of the Kansas City region and in shaping how the faiths work together in the future. Use the last line on the form below to mark your interest in Continuing Education credit.

Registration Information

Registration includes three vegetarian meals as scheduled, notebook and other materials. **DRESS** comfortably; business attire is not necessary. Because some of the events will be in the gym, avoid heels and black-soled shoes. **YOUR REGISTRATION** will be confirmed with additional information and another copy of this form mailed to you to share with a friend.

Hotel information: Nearby hotels include The Quarterage, 560 Westport Rd, 816 931 0001, and Embassy Suites, 220 W 43, 816 756 1720, as well as Plaza hotels. For additional information, visit <http://www.kansascitylodging.org> or phone 800-767-7700

For additional information, news, and updates, visit www.cres.org/gifts, email gifts@cres.org, or call conference coordinator Gene Flanery 913.299.8415 or CRES 913.649.5114.

Draw checks to “CRES” and mark “conference” on the memo line.

Mail to

Interfaith Gifts Conference, Box 45414, KCMO 64171

Kansas City Interfaith Council



American Indian

Kara Hawkins



Bahá'í

Simeon Kohlman Rabbani



Buddhism

Chuck Stanford



Christianity, Protestant

The Rev Dr Wallace Hartsfield



Christianity, R Catholic

George M Noonan



Hinduism

Anand Bhattacharyya



Islam

A Rauf Mir, MD



Judaism

Rabbi Joshua Taub



Sikh Dharma

Karta Purkh S Khalsa



Sufism

Ali Kadr



Unitarian Universalism

Ted Otteson



Wicca

Mike Nichols



Zoroastrianism

Daryoush Jahanian, MD

Vedanta Observer – *Uma*

Convener, *The Rev Vern Barnet, DMn*

Chair, *The Rev David E Nelson, DMin*

Conference Coordinator, *The Rev Gene Flanery*

Observers from world headquarters:

W Grant McMurray, Community of

Christ; William C Miller, Church of the

Nazarene; Sharon Connors, Unity

School of Christianity

The mission of the Council is

1. to develop deeper understanding among members of the Council of each other's faiths and traditions, and to foster appropriate bilateral and multilateral interreligious conversations

2. to model religious values (especially mutual respect and cooperation) in a society which often seems non-religious and intolerant

3. to provide resources, networking, and programs to increase appreciation for religious diversity, and

4. to work with media and with educational and religious leaders and groups in promoting accurate and fair portrayal of the faiths.

The Council was formed in 1989. Its activities are reported in the CRES bulletin, *Many Paths*. Each year on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, representatives of faith communities in the Kansas City area speak and eat together at an Interfaith Thanksgiving Sunday Ritual Meal open to the public. Mayor Kay Barnes is the most recent recipient of our interfaith award.

Registration (Please save information above. Cut or photocopy and mail form below or print from our web site.)

FEE Your check completes registration.

Enclosed is the full \$75 registration fee. I appreciate those who have provided grants to keep conference costs low.

I enclose an additional gift of \$_____ to subsidize those who cannot afford the full \$75 fee.

I enclose \$_____ but need scholarship assistance.

Meals

I/we plan on eating the following conference meals:

Sat lunch Sat dinner Sun lunch

A. Open House and B. Workshop

Using the **Bold Codes** for the faiths below, write your first, second, and third choices for the

A. Friday Open House or Religious Service (optional)

1. 2. 3.

B. Saturday workshop about this faith.

1. 2. 3.

AI American Indian, **BA** Baha'i, **BU** Buddhist, **RC** Christian—Roman Catholic, **CP** Christian—Protestant, **HI** Hindu, **JA** Jain, **JE** Jewish, **MU** Muslim, **SI** Sikh, **SU** Sufi, **UU** Unitarian Universalist, **WI** Wiccan, **ZO** Zoroastrian

COMMITMENT. I want to honor and learn about faiths practiced in the Kansas City area and meet people from many backgrounds. I want my participation to further our sense of community, without focusing on issues from other countries. I join with others in sharing our own faiths with each another without seeking to convert or assimilate others, but rather to understand and appreciate.

Please sign (required): _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone(s) _____

Email _____

Faith Community (Circle) American Indian, Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian—Catholic, Christian—Protestant, Christian—Orthodox, Freethinker, Hindu, Jain, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, Sufi, Unitarian Universalist, Wiccan, Zoroastrian, Other/None:

Accessibility/ Dietary/ CEU needs:

Deepening our own faiths while
learning about others

The Gifts of Pluralism

Finding the Sacred in a World without Direction

Our focus

is not on a big-name out-of-town
speaker,
but on us here,
building understanding and relationships

Join us in shaping the future of religion
in the greater Kansas City area by —

1. Acquainting ourselves with the richness of religious diversity in the greater Kansas City area
2. Learning how to learn from one another in the depths of faith
3. Discovering our own faiths anew by encounter with others
4. Articulating the wisdom in the faith traditions which can heal the crises of secularism — environmental degradation, personal distress, loss of true community, local and global
5. Celebrating the arts and traditions which enlarge our common humanity
6. Connecting deeply with persons of other faiths with the hope of on-going friendships
7. Encouraging interfaith dialogue and understanding
8. Strengthening our various faith communities by working together in new ways

CONFERENCE FEATURES

- meals shared together
- question box and answer board
- notebook and resource materials
- individual and group networking
- exhibits and cultural performances
- learn about some Kansas City faith sites
- worship and other devotional experiences
- quiet room for prayer, meditation, reflection
- small groups, panel discussions, plenary sessions

C o n f e r e n c e S c h e d u l e

using the “Appreciative Inquiry” method
of deepening relationships

Program subject to change

Oct 26 Friday Pre-Conference

- 3:00** Registration
4:00 Exhibit space opens
5:00 or later Open house for pre-registered people at hosting sites —
Learn about your neighbor’s tradition
7:00 Pizza party for youth

Oct 27 Saturday Daylight Savings Time

- 8:00** Registration
9:00 Plenary Session: *Greetings*
9:10 Plenary Session: *Discovering Our Gifts*
10:00 Plenary Session: *The Three Families of Faith*
11:00 Workshops on Each Faith *Learn about your neighbor’s tradition*
Youth Caucus: *Stereotyping*
noon Break — *Exhibit space open until 2 pm **
12:20 and 1:05 Lunch (two 45-minute seatings)
12:20 and 1:05 Seminar (two 45-minute seatings)
The Gifts of Pluralism: Pitfalls and Prizes
2:00 Multifaith Panel on Environmental Issues
2:45 *Appreciative Inquiry* **3:00** Break
3:15 Multifaith Panel on Personal Issues *
4:00 *Appreciative Inquiry* **4:15** Break
4:30 Multifaith Panel on Social Issues
5:15 *Appreciative Inquiry* **5:30** Break
6:00 Dinner and Entertainment from sundry cultures *
8:15 Closing the Day with Rites from each tradition *

Oct 28 Sunday Central Standard Time

- 11:00** Interfaith worship **11:45** Break
noon Networking Box Lunch *
1:05 Community Panel:
What is the role of religion in the community?
Business, government media, non-profit representatives
2:00 Break
2:15 Interfaith panel: *Next steps for us:*
*How can we better relate to one another? **
3:30 Break
3:45 *Appreciative Inquiry* — Tentative Conclusions:
What we have learned about ourselves, each other, and the Holy
4:45 Ending the Conference with a
Joint Declaration and Concluding Ceremony

*Zuhr 1:02 Saturday, 12:02 Sunday

*'Asr 3:58 Saturday, 2:56 Sunday

*Maghrib Saturday 6:23, 'Isha' 7:38

Conference Notes

1. **KANSAS CITY FOCUS.** This is the first truly multi-faith conference in the history of the Kansas City area. American Indian, Bahá'í, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, Sufi, Unitarian Universalist, Wiccan, Zoroastrian faiths are participating. In addition, the conference planning includes observers from major denominations with world headquarters in the Kansas City area. Without out-of-town speakers, we will discover who we are here and what we can become.

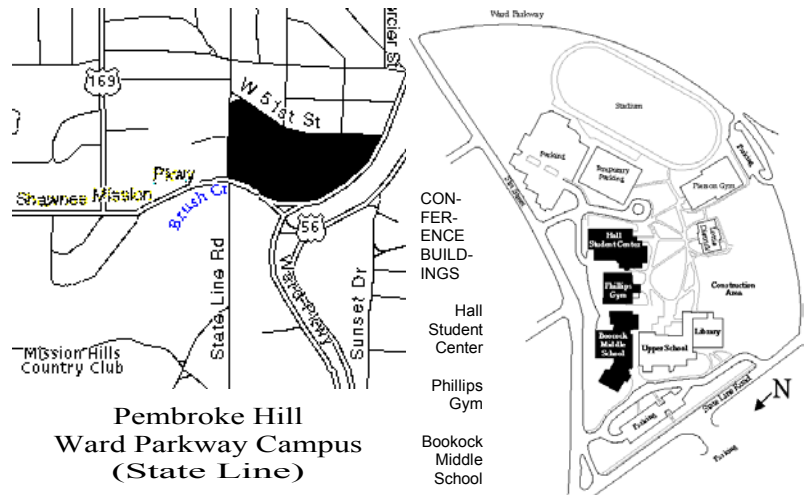
2. **PARTICIPATION.** This is not a “listen-and-learn” conference. It is participatory in several ways. • The “appreciative inquiry” method will be used throughout the conference to facilitate the building of relationships. • In addition to talks and panels, cultural exhibits and demonstrations will appeal to more than just the intellect. • The conference will move toward a concluding *Declaration* with a process through which all are invited to contribute. • We expect that plans for establishing an area-wide alliance of congregations, currently under study by the United Way, will gain significant momentum.

3. **ALL WELCOME.** The conference is open to anyone wishing respectful interfaith exchange.

4. **RELEVANCE.** The conference brings the wisdom of the world's religious traditions to address environmental, personal, and social questions of our time, with Kansas City as our focus.

5. **THE SPIRIT.** The conference arises from the experience of the members of the Interfaith Council, and many other people, that learning about other faiths is a way of deepening one's own. There is no presumption equating the faiths—we place importance on appreciating each tradition in its own right and value the differences, even as we cherish our shared human kinship.

6. **ORGANIZATION.** The conference is convened by the *Kansas City Interfaith Council*, established in 1989. It is managed by the Council's hosting organization, *CRES*, a 501(c)(3) organization promoting understanding among peoples of all faiths. The conference is co-sponsored by the *NCCJ*, *Kansas City Harmony*, and *Spirit of Service*. The Learning Project and Hatebusters are also supporting this conference.



7. **THE LOGO** combines a vision of organic unity and diversity in the image of the tree with a single trunk, many roots and branches. The world map suggests our global context and the Kansas City logo “City of Fountains” in the shape of a heart superimposed on the tree calls us to our local diverse presences and work.

8. **APPRECIATIVE INQUIRY** is a way for one-on-one and small-group exchange to be most productive and positive. Using a list of questions, participants listen and ask and answer questions from their own experiences to collect and celebrate the good news stories of a community — those stories that enhance cultural identity, spirit and vision. It is a co-operative search for the strengths, passions and life-giving forces that are found within every religious system. It involves an appreciation for the mystery of being and a reverence for life.

9. **THE CONFERENCE NOTEBOOK** includes descriptions of each faith, a religious calendar, and local resource materials.

10. **PLANNING.** In addition to the cooperating faith groups, prominent civic, educational, business, government and other leaders have been consulted to help us make this a conference with the greatest impact on the Kansas City area.

WE FIND THE SACRED

- **Nature** is to be respected more than controlled; it is a process which includes us, not a product external to us to be used or disposed of. Our proper attitude toward nature is awe, not utility.

- True **personhood** may not be our social identities. When we realize this, our acts can proceed spontaneously from duty and compassion, without attachment to results.

- The flow of history toward justice is possible when persons in **community** govern themselves less by profit and more by a covenant of service.